

Rep. Slaughter shares the growing concern that hormone disrupting pollutants in our environment may explain the rise in occurrences of childhood cancers, testicular cancer, juvenile diabetes, thyroid disorders, learning disabilities, cognitive impairments and autoimmune disorders over the past 30 years. Despite the progress made in understanding the link between these chemicals and hormone disruption, further research is still needed. Rep. Slaughter believes that investing in research today could prevent and treat a broad range of diseases and disorders in future generations. During the 111th Congress, Rep. Slaughter reintroduced The Environmental Hormone Disruption Act and the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act.

H.R. 4160, the Environmental Hormone Disruption Research Act authorizes the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to establish a comprehensive program to better understand the impact of hormone disrupting pollutants in the environment on the health of women and children.

H.R. 4161, the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to provide grants to up to 6 multidisciplinary research centers regarding environmental factors that affect women's health, and the health of their offspring.

During the 111th Congress, Rep. Slaughter was also an original co-sponsor of Speaker Pelosi's legislation, **H.R. 3426, Coordinated Environmental Public Health Network Act of 2009**, which will amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish and operate a Coordinated Environmental Public Health Network to provide for public access to an electronic national database on the incidence and prevalence of priority chronic conditions and health effects and relevant environmental and other factors and provide support to states and territories in carrying out this work.

In July 2005, Rep. Slaughter joined researchers from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) to publicize a shocking study documenting the degree of chemical pollution present in the bodies of newborn infants. The EWG investigation tested blood from ten newborn infants for a range of chemical pollutants, many of which are associated with abnormal development and poor health. On average, the infants had over 200 industrial chemicals in their blood.

Rep. Slaughter's blood was also tested, and was revealed to contain 271 harmful substances. For over three decades, the U.S. had seen a steep rise in the occurrence of numerous diseases and disorders impacting the minds and bodies of our children. At the same time, more than 80,000 new chemicals have been introduced into our environment since the 1950s. While the evidence is mounting that there is an association between these chemicals and hormone disruption, research remains limited, particularly on the chemicals' impact on women. Increased investments in research now could prevent and treat a broad range of diseases and disorders in future generations. The Environmental Hormone Disruption Act authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to conduct a comprehensive program to research and educate the public on the health effects of hormone-disrupting chemicals. The Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act will authorize the NIEHS to establish multidisciplinary research centers to investigate how environmental factors may be related to women's health and disease prevention.